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Allen: Mackinac Bridge Package Passes Senate Committee

Legislative package ensures funding for landmark while keeping tolls down

LANSING – A legislative package spearheaded by Sen. Jason Allen, R- Traverse City, introduced to ensure that the Mackinac Bridge receives the needed funding for critical repairs and upgrades while keeping tolls at a minimum was passed Tuesday by the Senate Transportation Committee.

“In the coming years, the Mighty Mac will need some major repairs requiring substantial funding, which should not come at the expense of area residents, tourists or businesses,” Allen said. “This legislation ensures that critical infrastructure repairs are funded, while ensuring that toll fees remain low.”

The legislative package would dedicate annual state funding for capital improvement projects; enable the Mackinac Bridge Authority to continue to oversee the operation and maintenance of the bridge; allow emergency vehicles to cross toll-free when on an emergency call, and require the Authority to conduct public hearings as to whether the tolls currently in place should be lowered.

“The Mackinac Bridge has been crossed by more than 100 million travelers and should remain accessible to everyone in Michigan through low toll fares,” Allen said. “The legislative package passed by the committee ensures the State’s partnership with the Authority in keeping this important piece of Michigan history in top shape.”

SBs 464-468 will now be considered by the full Senate.

Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Allen during the Senate Transportation Committee is available on the Senate Majority Photowire, located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire>.

Audio comments from Senator Allen on the passage of the Mackinac Bridge legislative package are also available on the Michigan Senate Republican Audiowire at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire>, or by phone at (517) 373-4000.